THE LIFE AND Character,

Together with all the

Remarkable Actions

OF

James Butler,

Late Duke of ORMOND.

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ORMOND.

The LIFE and CHARACTER, together with all the Remarkable Actions of *JAMES BUTLER*, Late Duke of *ORMOND*.

James Butler, late Duke of *Ormond*, is descended from an Antient and Noble Family, as well from Mothers as Father's side; his Parents, with all their Ancestors, ever bearing a very Bright and Noble Character, no ways inferiour to those of the first Rank of Quality, both in Piety, Learning and Wisdom; the Fear of God, Honour of their King, and Service of their Country, being ever their Chiefest Study. But to return to our former Thesis, *James Butler*, late Duke of *Ormond*, was Born about 50 Years ago; his Mother fell in Labour with him as she was coming from *Ireland* to *England*, and was deliver'd of him upon the Seas about the Year 1660, and was afterwards brought into *England*, where he had such Education as was suitable to a Man of his Degree and Quality, whose Pedigree well attested Historians commemorate with great respect.

When he was arrived to a convenient number of Years, he was instructed in all manner of Learning such as *French*, *Latin*, *Greek*, Writing and Accompts; all which, his then docible and ingeni-

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ous Tempet ſoon acquired; his Activity of Body was remarkable when a Youth or School-boy; his quick and ready Wit admirable, his Judgment extraordinary in his Juvenal Years, which truly foretold him to be deſign'd for ſome conſiderable Pattern either of Credit or Infamy, of both which he may be eſteem'd juſtly an unparallel'd Example.

In the Year 1688, when the happy and never to be forgotten Revolution was made by K. *William* the Third, of Glorious and Immortal Memmory; his Zeal for the Proteſtant Religion, call'd his Courage into the Field (which, till then lay conceal'd) when his Extraordinary and Exemplary Conduct and Fortitude equally appear'd. For he was one of the firſt of thoſe, who (ſeeing the Danger both the Church and State was in, under King *James* II. (who ſought to eſtabliſh the Romiſh Religion) immediately upon the then Prince of *Orange* (our great Deliverer from Popery and Slavery) his happy Landing, went over to him, and with more than ordinary Candour and Zeal for the Wellfare of his Country, expreſt his Concern for the Danger it was expoſed to, and was by King *William*, and all true Proteſtants, in the higheſt Eſteem; going over, as I before told you, to King *William* at *Sherborn*: He was by him made Maſter of the Bed Chamber, and Knight of the Garter; which Honour he enjoy'd as long as his Majeſty liv'd, and even till the Death of Queen *Ann*, of immortal Piety and Fame; but then ſome degenerate Action being deſervedly (as the latter part of his Life will ſhew) laid to his Charge, he was ſtript of all his Honours.

However he accompanied his Majeſty King *William* into *Flanders* and *Ireland*, and behaved himſelf with great alacrity in all Poſts of importance, and with

unparallel'd

unparallel'd Conduct and Bravery; in every occasion exposed himself in the utmost Danger.

He going into *Flanders*, where as we before hinted he accompanied King *William*, he shewed an extraordinary Courage and Resolution for his Country, and particularly when he was at the Battle of *Landen*, he seeing King *William* almost environed, and surrounded on every side, he, with great Precipitation, tho' with admirable Caution, hasted to his assistance, which had he not done, 'tis the Opinion of many People, That the King would have been taken; so that in some measure the happy Government we now enjoy, is owing to him; for had King *William*, our Gracious, Just, and good Preserver and Defender been taken, our Kingdom and Constitution had at once fallen, being exposed to the Cruelty and Tyranny of a Popish Government: 'Tis strange that a Man endow'd with so many excellent Qualities, should at last be Guilty of such notorious Villanies, as it appears he is; but the Ways of Man, as *Solomon* says, are as unaccountable as the flight of Bricks against the Wind.

After the Death of King *William*, he was by her Majesty Queen *Ann*, highly favoured, being in the Beginning of her Reign sent Lord Admiral, with a Noble Fleet into *Spain*, for the Assistance of the present Emperor, who was then disputing his Right with King *Philip* to the Crown of *Spain*; his Fleet being brought to *Cadiz*, he lay a considerable time before that Place, but through some Mismanagement was, tho' several Men were Landed, obliged to retire; but having notice of the *Spanish* Galeons which were gone by very richly loaded with Wedges of Gold and Silver, with a vast quantity of Gold and Silver Dust, he resolved to go in pursuit of them, and getting Intelligence that they were gone into *Vi-*

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go, he gave Orders that the whole Fleet should immediately sale in quest of them, when coming into the Road, he understood the Galleons were but newly arrived into the Harbour of *Vigo*, which was fenced with strong Booms or Iron Chains, going cross the Harbour: However, he issued out Orders that the whole Fleet should the next fair Gale, being under Sail, run against the Chains, expecting, as it luckily fell out they did, that they would give way to the impetuous force of so noble a Fleet, sent out upon so just a Cause, as the asserting of an injur'd Prince's Right, and the Ballance of *Europe*: The Booms breaking, they easily came into the Key, where they took and sunk the whole *Spanish* and *French* Fleet which lay in that Harbour, from which Illustrious Action, neither *Spain* or *France* has been able ever since to make any considerable Head by Sea. The Soldiers enjoy'd a very large share of the Plunder and Spoil which was inexpressible; it not being easy to immagin the immense heap of Riches that wealthy Fleet brought from the *Spanish Indies*.

He soon became Master of the Town by vigorously attacking a Fort that very much annoy'd 'em, which by his great Conduct and bravery of his Men was soon brought to submission, whereby he had free access to Seize all the Wealth both of the Town and Harbour; he seiz'd of all the rich loaded Galleons, and the rest were destroyed with all their Men of War, and seized all their riches that were carried on Shoar for its Safety. Thus, having possessed himself of all their Wealth, he returned home with great Joy and Triumph, and was received with such Marks of Honour as so brave an Action justly merited. It put a stop to the mighty Career of our Enemies, by disappointing those mighty Advantages they expected to have obtain'd over us by

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Interests, on which
[illegible] integrity depended.

He was Beloved and highly esteemed by his Queen and Country, who bestowed several additionary Honours and Places of Preferment upon him; he was Chancellour of the University of *Oxford*, and if I mistake not, of *Dublin* in *Ireland*; he was Master of a Troop of Guards, and in several other Posts of Honour and worth, the whole of which to enumerate would be too prolix for my narrow Limits. He was by her Majesty Queen *Ann* sent into *Ireland*, as Lord Lieutenant, where he behav'd himself to the great Satisfaction of the People, who were very unwilling to have him recall'd; and her Majesty therefore, as 'tis suppos'd, gave him Orders to discharge the same Trust a second time, which he faithfully executed, as he did all other Trusts committed to his Charge, till being sent by Queen *Ann*, Generalissimo into *Flanders*, where he lost all his Integrity, and he shewed himself to be of a degenerate, base and Ignoble Spirit, for he held Correspondence with *Villars* the *French* General, and suffered the *Dutch*, who were in Alliance with us, to be cut in pieces, without ever striking a Blow, standing by only as an insipid Spectator; he had also an Hand, or was a very great Instrument of the Disadvantageous and Disgraceful Peace, for which we have paid very dear.

To Conclude, his Actions, ever since he has been Frenchify'd are most notorious, for which he has Justly been Impeached as a Rebel and Traytor both to King and Government; his Guilty Conscience (which needs no Accusation) occasion'd his flight into *France*, where he stays in disgraceful manner, being forced to abscond for Perfidiousness and Treachery: O shameful Character! O miserable Wretch!

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He has been twice Married (as a Right Honourable Author tells us) *First*, He was espoused to *Ann Hyde*, Daughter to *Lawrence Hyde*; and *Secondly*, he Marry'd *Mary Somerset*, Daughter of the Duke of *Beauford*, by whom he has several Issues.

As to his own Domestick Affairs, he was generally allowed to be a good Housekeeper, in which he managed with good Government, and regularly: He was beloved of his Servants, to whom he was a good Master; to his Children Indulgent, and to his Wives kind.

He was much given to Charity, and has by his Alms wasted a considerable part of his Estate, 'Tis pity, when we consider, That a Man, who in the greatest part of his Life-time, had been so Noble in all his Deportments, and of so humble and Charitable a Disposition in his temperature of Mind, that every indegent Person thought themselves happy to be under his Cognizance, not doubting of being influenced, and of receiving Relief from his most generous Hand: Then who could imagin that one so Generous, Good and Brave, should give any Grounds at all, much less be Guilty of Treason and Rebellion. But,

Si vitam inspicias Hominum, si denique Mores,

Cum Culpent alios, nemo sine Crimine vivit.

FINIS.